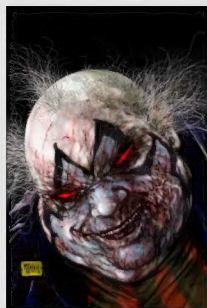


SPAWN



Kudranski
McFARLANE

+fco



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

After Jim saves Sara from the darkness, Sara is startled to find him in her bed the morning after. Instead of allowing herself to feel guilty for what, most likely, transpired the previous evening, Sara decides to accept her happiness. She and Jim are on a new page, and appear to be moving forward as a couple. It's something Sara's always dreamed of.

Frustrated by being in the dark all the time, Marc goes on the offense, demanding answers about the woman in Jim's wedding photo. Various people have been after Marc for his association to Jim, leaving him unsettled. He forces Jim to reveal his dark secret, and discovers Jim is Spawn.

Back at her apartment, a possessed Sara plots to murder the man she loves.



Jim Downing (Spawn) – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



Sara Johnston – When Jim woke from his coma (issue #185), Sara was the first person to greet him on the other side of the darkness. A woman of strong faith, Sara's connection to Jim will test her in ways she could never imagine.



Marc Rosen – A would-be reporter-turned-media manager and confidant of Jim Downing, Marc views Jim as his ticket to a better life – though the price for that success may be far greater than Marc knows.

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SPAWN.COM



TRY IT! GO
AHEAD...!

YOU MAKE
A MOVE AND
I'LL
KILL
YOU

RIGHT HERE!!

YOU
HEAR ME,
SARA?? I'LL
GUT YOU
BEFORE
YOU EVEN
MOVE!

"WHEN TODAY STARTED, IT HAD
BEEN MY BEST DAY SINCE
WAKING FROM MY COMA. NOTHING
HAD EVEN COME CLOSE TO IT, BUT
NOW-- I WAS ABOUT TO MURDER
THE WOMAN I LOVED!"



"OR AT LEAST THE 'THING'
THAT POSSESSED HER."



"AND ALL I CAN THINK OF--WHAT KEEPS
RACING THROUGH MY MIND--IS HOW?
HOW DID TODAY TURN INTO THIS?!"

Nine Hours Earlier



I DON'T
HAVE TO
GO TO THIS
MEETING IF
YOU DON'T
WANT.

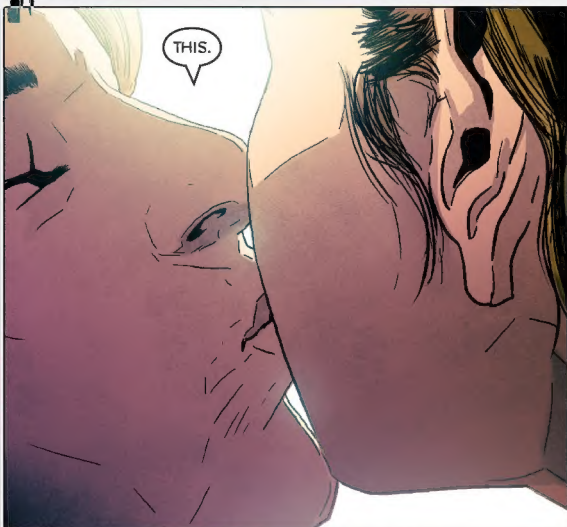
I'LL
BE
FINE.

YOU'RE
SURE?

ABSOLUTELY.

OH!...
I FORGOT
SOME-
THING.

WHAT?



THIS.



CALL YOU
LATER.

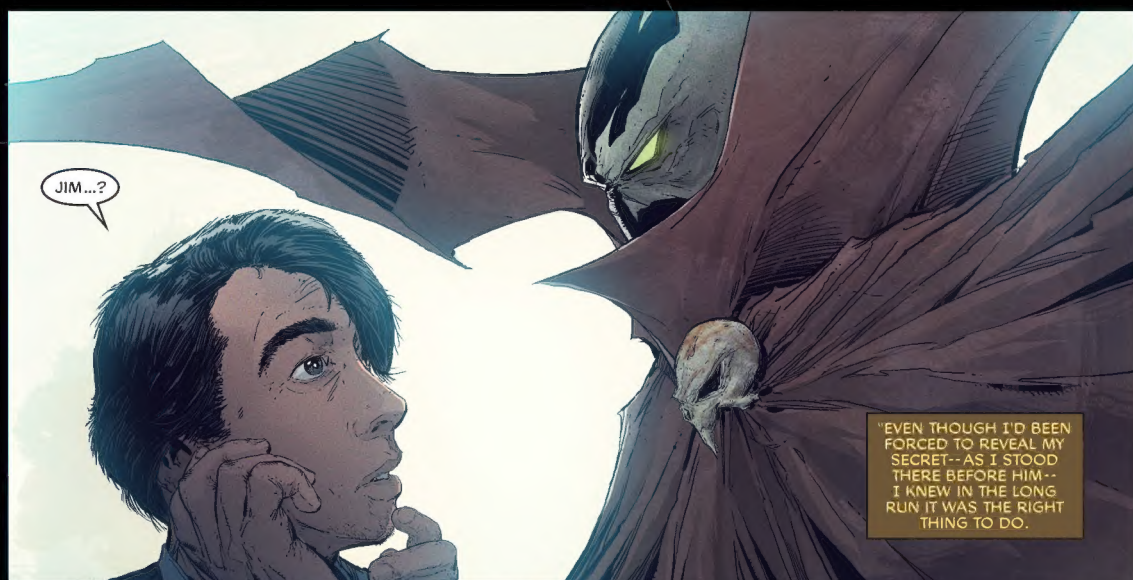


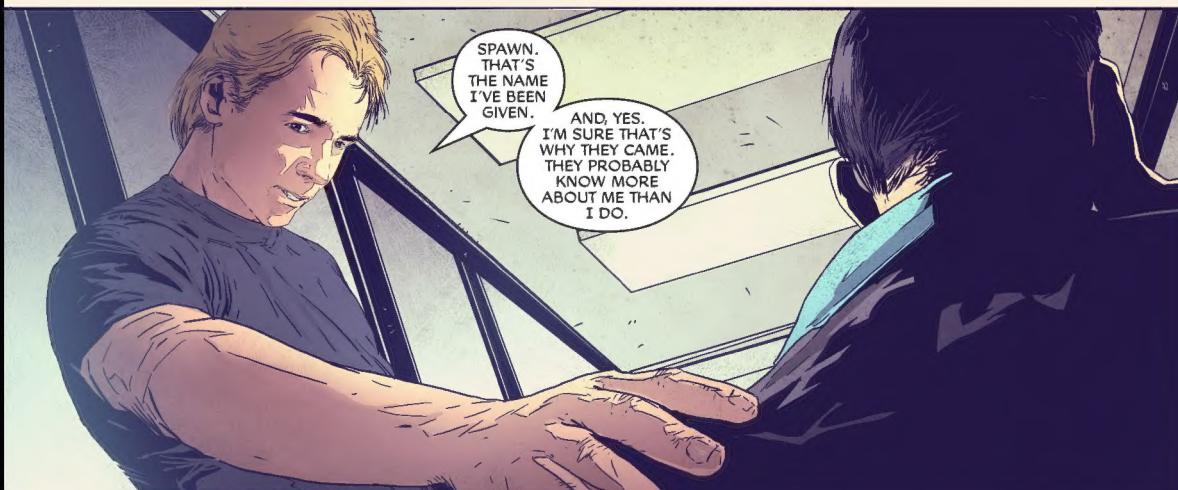
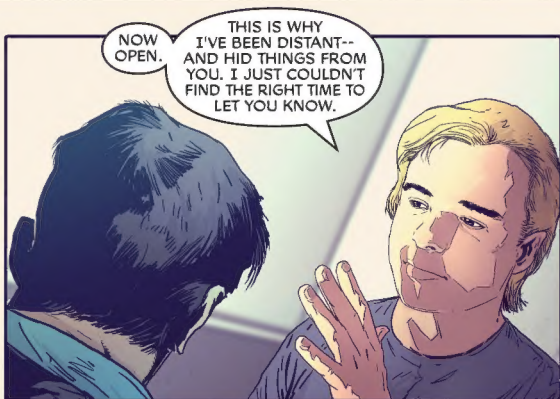
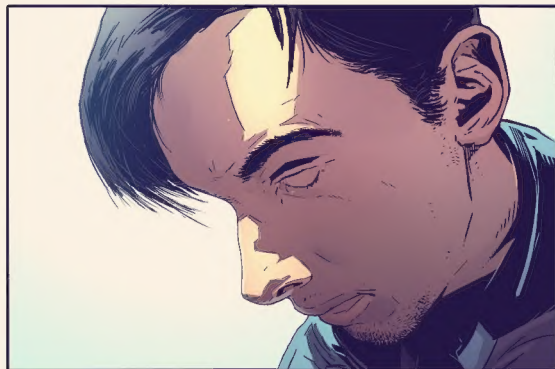


Eight and a Half Hours Ago.



Eight Hours Ago.





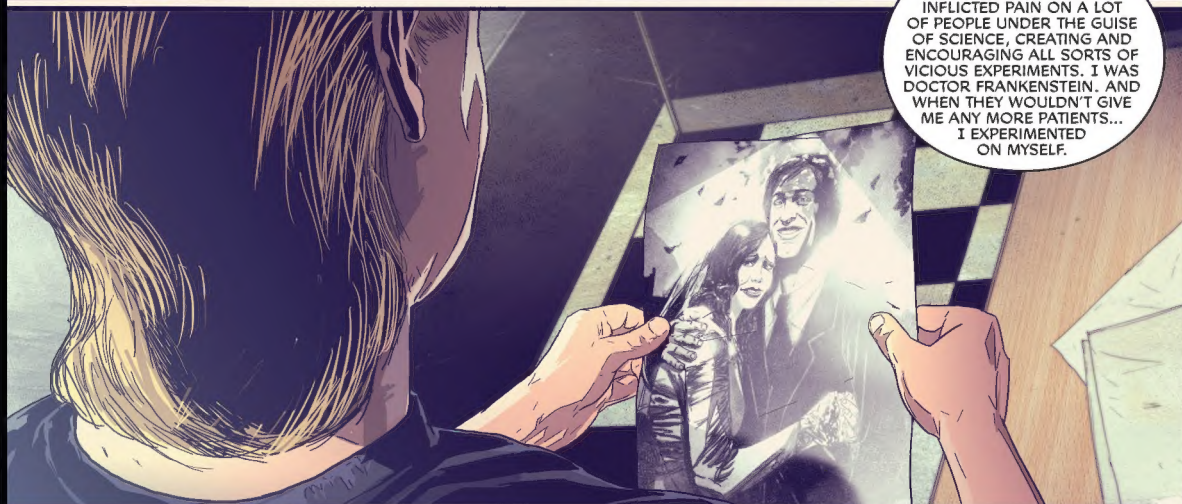


"I COULD TELL HE WAS SCARED. NOT ABOUT ME, BUT ABOUT EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE DIDN'T HAVE CONTROL OVER ANY OF IT. AND I KNEW EXACTLY HOW HE FELT. THAT'S WHY I NEEDED TO BE AS TRUTHFUL WITH HIM AS I COULD. IT TOOK ME NEARLY TWENTY MINUTES.

...CERTAIN PEOPLE HAD THOSE PIECES TO MY PAST. I WAS JUST TRYING TO SORT THROUGH WHAT WAS FACT AND WHAT WAS FICTION.

WHAT ABOUT HER? WAS SHE REAL?

SHE WAS, BUT SHE DIED BECAUSE OF ME. I INFLECTED PAIN ON A LOT OF PEOPLE UNDER THE GUISE OF SCIENCE, CREATING AND ENCOURAGING ALL SORTS OF VICIOUS EXPERIMENTS. I WAS DOCTOR FRANKENSTEIN. AND WHEN THEY WOULDN'T GIVE ME ANY MORE PATIENTS... I EXPERIMENTED ON MYSELF.



I BECAME MY OWN FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER ...

THIS PICTURE JUST REMINDS ME OF THAT UGLY PAST. ONE I DON'T PLAN ON VISITING EVER AGAIN.



RIPPP



"I THINK THE TRUTH DENTED HIS SOUL THAT VERY MOMENT. EVERYTHING WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE AND MARC KNEW IT."



IF YOU'RE ASKING WHETHER THOSE THAT KILLED YOUR FRIENDS WILL KEEP HUNTING FOR ME, THE ANSWER IS YES, THEY WILL. BUT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ME. MY APPEARANCE HAS CHANGED DRASTICALLY FROM THOSE TIMES.

BUT SOMEONE'S BEGUN TO MAKE A CONNECTION. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE RESORTING TO SUCH EXTREMES.

WHICH IS WHY I NEED YOUR HELP. I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE.

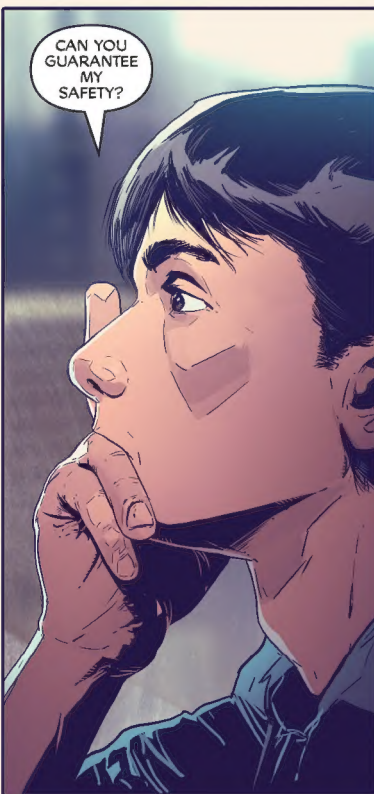


JESUS! WHAT HELP CAN I BE? THIS IS WAY OUT OF MY LEAGUE!

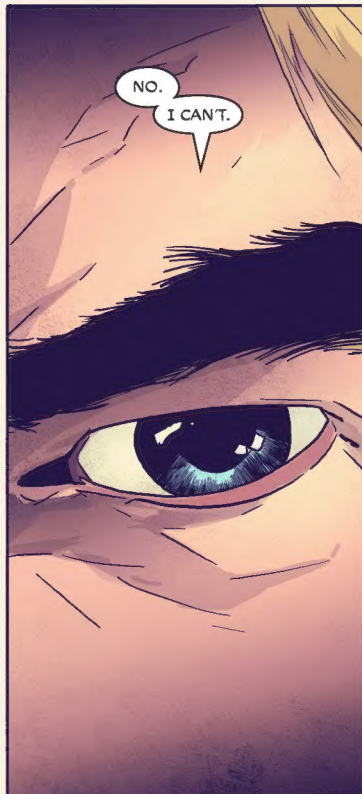
YOU CAN HELP PLENTY! YOU'RE THE SMARTEST GUY I KNOW--AND THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY. I'M GOING TO NEED THOSE SMARTS AND YOUR REPORTER SKILLS. BECAUSE IF THEY'VE MADE CONTACT WITH YOU ALREADY, THEN THAT DOOR SWINGS BOTH WAYS.



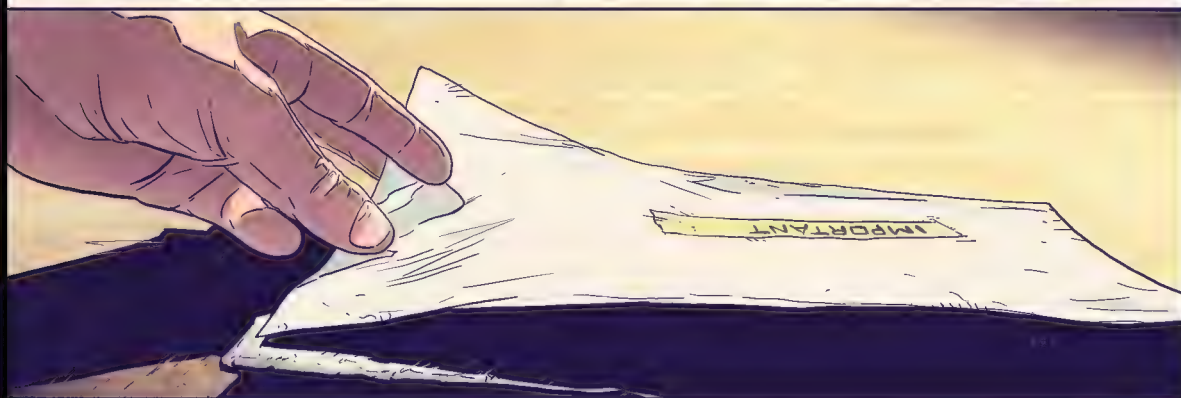
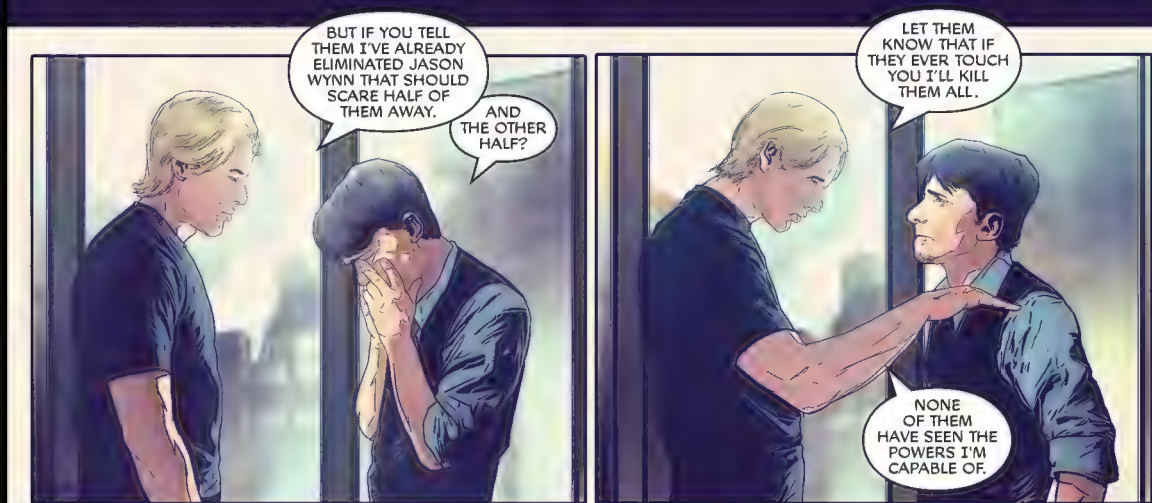
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD, DANGEROUS, AND VERY COMPLICATED. SO YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT THIS.



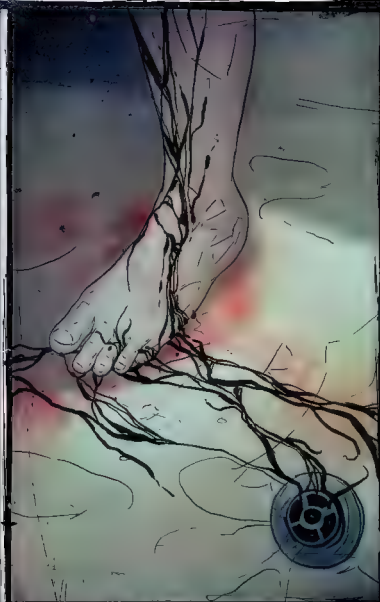
CAN YOU GUARANTEE MY SAFETY?



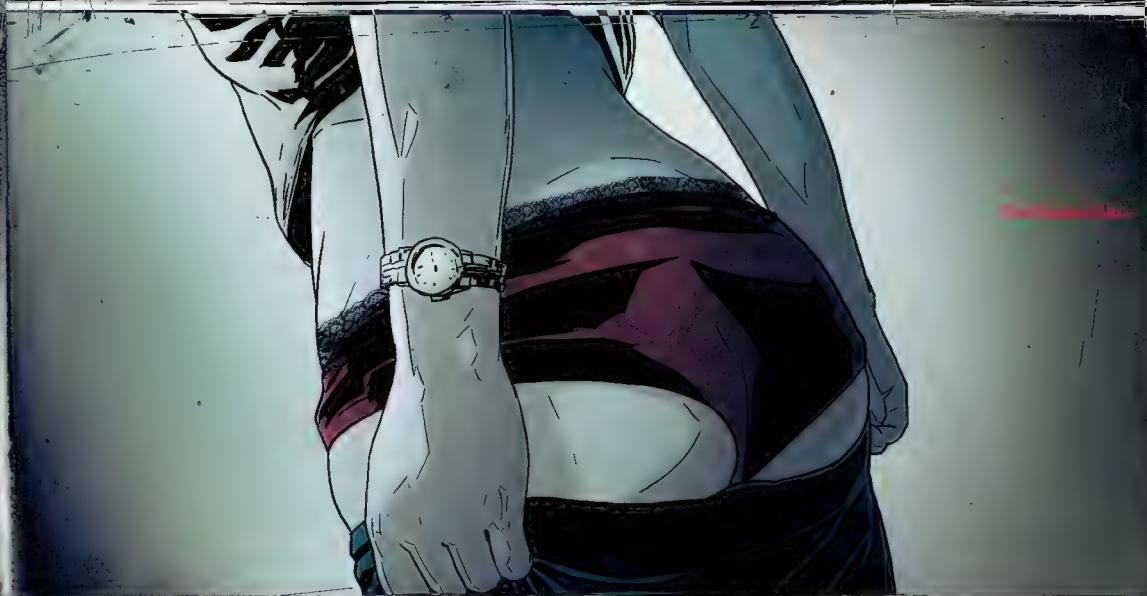
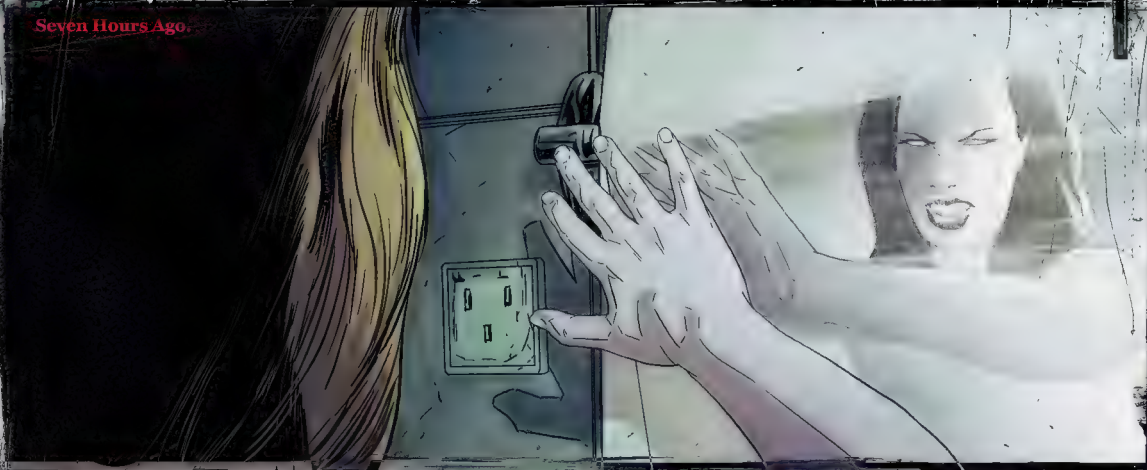
NO. I CAN'T.



Seven and a Half Hours Ago...



Seven Hours Ago...





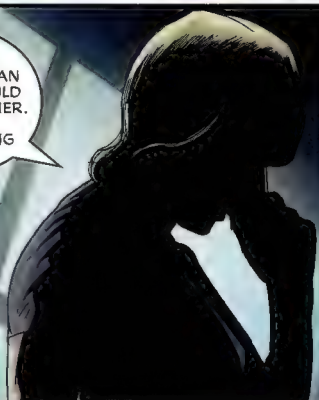


perfect

One Hour Ago,



HEY, SARA.
MY MEETINGS
TOOK LONGER THAN
I THOUGHT. SHOULD
HAVE CALLED EARLIER.
BUT AFTER MY
MORNING MEETING
WITH MARC...

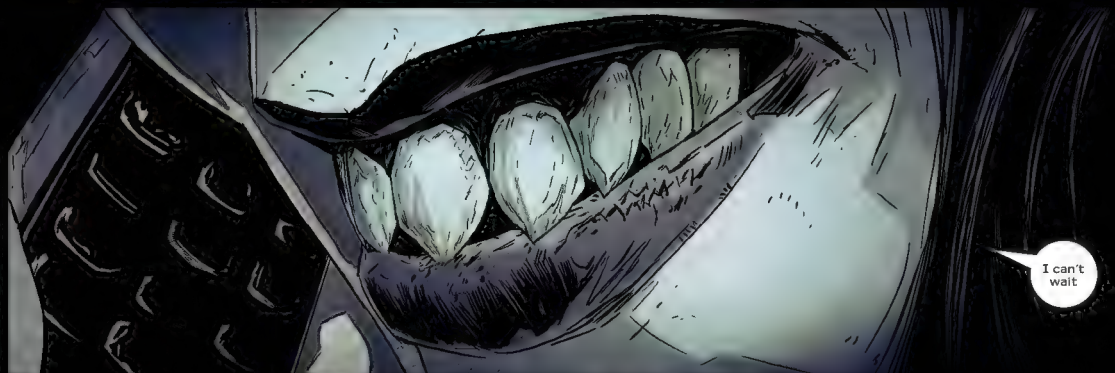


WELL, I
THINK THERE'S
A FEW THINGS
YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT ME
I HAVEN'T
TOLD YOU.

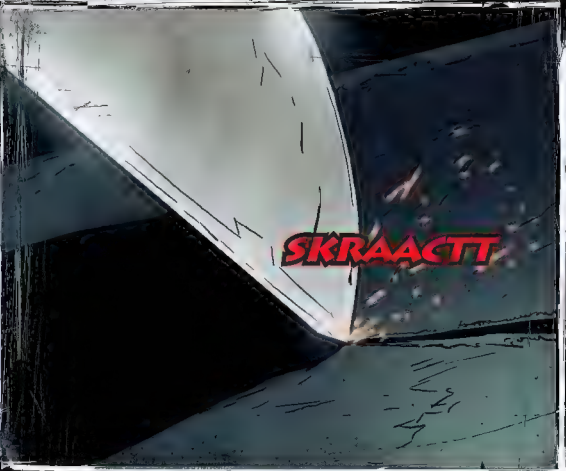
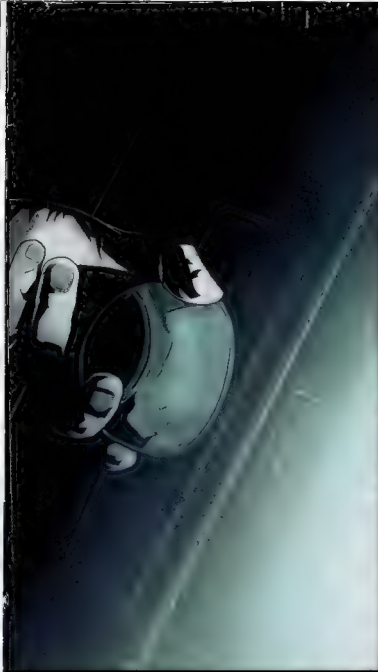
TONIGHT?

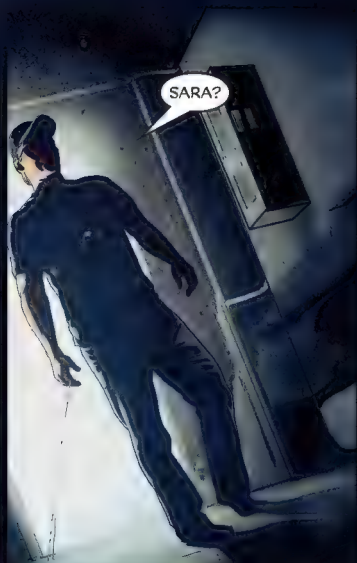
YOU SURE
IT'S NOT TOO
LATE?

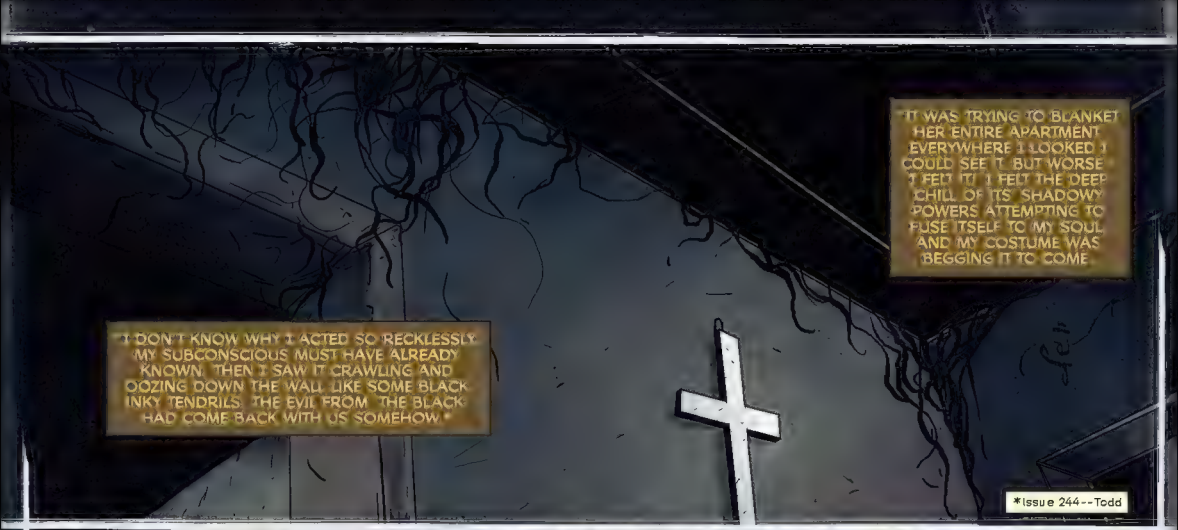
GREAT.
I'LL SEE
YOU
SOON.



I can't
wait



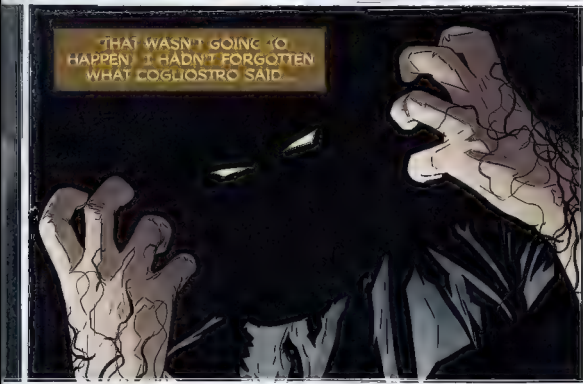





"I DON'T KNOW WHY I ACTED SO RECKLESSLY. MY SUBCONSCIOUS MUST HAVE ALREADY KNOWN. THEN I SAW IT CRAWLING AND OOOZING DOWN THE WALL LIKE SOME BLACK INKY TENDRILS. THE EVIL FROM 'THE BLACK' HAD COME BACK WITH US SOMEHOW."

"IT WAS TRYING TO BLANKET HER ENTIRE APARTMENT. EVERYWHERE I LOOKED I COULD SEE IT. BUT WORSE I FELT IT! I FELT THE DEEP CHILL OF ITS SHADOWY POWERS ATTEMPTING TO FUSE ITSELF TO MY SOUL AND MY COSTUME WAS BEGGING IT TO COME."

* Issue 244 -- Todd



"THAT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN! I HADN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT COGLIOSTRO SAID."



IF YOU BRING THE COSTUME ON FIRST, IT CAN'T HARM YOU. IF IT COMES WITHOUT YOUR BLESSING-- IT'LL TRY TO DESTROY YOU. YOU MUST MASTER IT! CONTROL IT!



SO I WELCOMED IT! FOR THE FIRST TIME I WANTED TO BE CLOAKED IN THAT BLACK AND RED ARMOR BECAUSE, AT THAT MOMENT, I WANTED TO RETURN EVERY OUNCE OF PAIN THAT HELL HAD PUT UPON ME!



THEY WERE NOT GOING TO DO THIS TO SARA! THEY MAY HAVE TAKEN HER BODY, BUT GOD DAMN IT THEY WEREN'T GETTING HER SOUL!"



"NO MATTER HOW
MUCH THEY WANTED IT
OR WANTED ME

"TONIGHT THEY WERE
GETTING NOTHING!"



SLURK

NO!

TINK



TRY IT!
GO
AHEAD...!

I'D RATHER SEE HER
DEAD BEFORE MAKING
HER ENDURE THAT
DARKNESS AGAIN!



YOU
MAKE A
MOVE AND I'LL
KILL YOU
RIGHT HERE!!

YOU
HEAR
ME, SARA??
I'LL GUT YOU
BEFORE
YOU EVEN
MOVE!

BECAUSE THIS THING
IN FRONT OF ME WASN'T
SARA* IT WASN'T!!

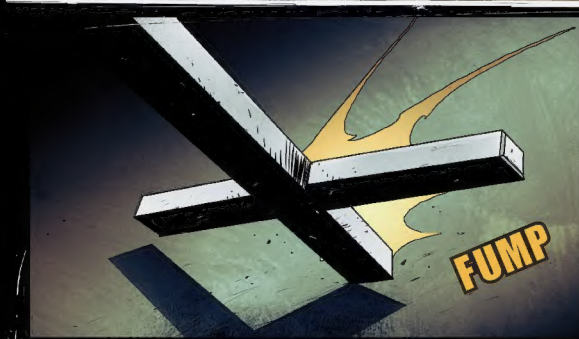


NOOOO!

TAKE ME!
DO YOU HEAR!?
TAKE ME! JUST
LEAVE HER
ALONE!



THUNK



FUMP



LET HER
GO!... OR I
SWEAR I'LL F*CKIN'
UNLEASH THE
WRATH OF GOD
ON YOU!



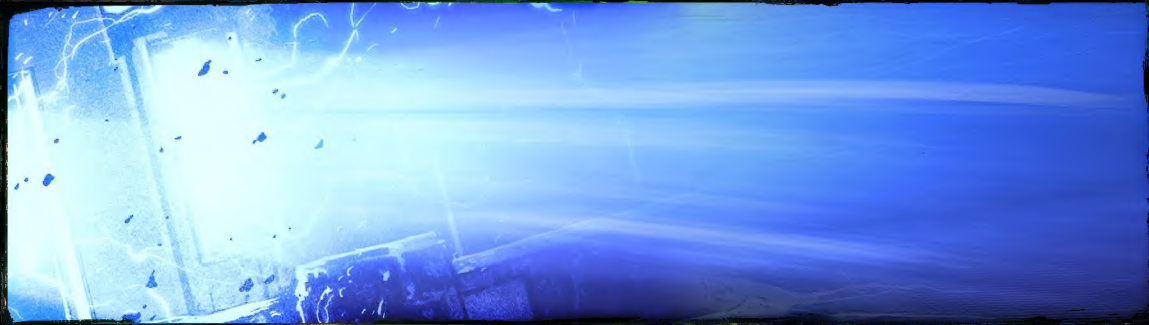
DON'T YOU TURN AWAY! NOT AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE! LOOK AT ME!

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM? WHO I WAS?

I'M SIMMONS! DOWNING'S GONE!

BUT I'M COMING FOR THEM! YOU TELL THEM THAT! TELL THEM VERY SOON, AL SIMMONS IS COMING AFTER EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM! WITH A VENGEANCE!

NOW LEAVE HER BE!



THE WALKERS-- THEY'RE COMING! ALONG THE RIVER BANK! ABOUT A THOUSAND OF THEM!

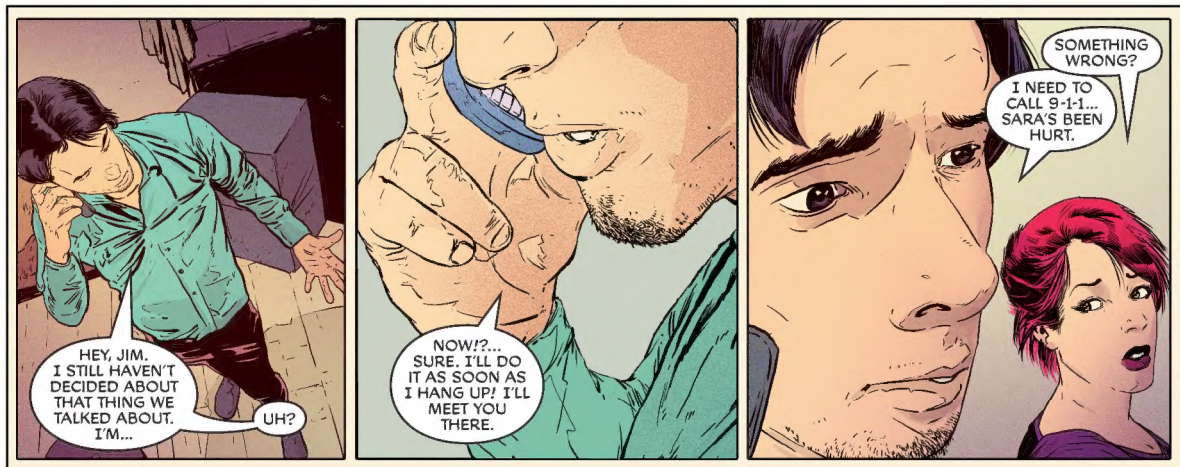
WHERE'S MICHONNE AND RICK?

DARYL SAID THEY TOOK THE CAR INTO TOWN LOOKING FOR SUPPLIES.

BLEEP BLEEP
BLEEP BLEEP

DON'T ANSWER IT! THIS IS THE GOOD PART. I SAW IT ON THE COMMERCIAL.

IT'S JIM-- HE'S WAITING FOR ME TO GIVE HIM AN ANSWER ABOUT SOMETHING. YOU GO AHEAD. DON'T PAUSE IT.





Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE